THE BORDER MEXICANS.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HAPPY PEASANTS OF THE SOUTHWEST.

Realizing Rousseau's Definition of Freedom-Simple Lives That Have a Great Deal of Tovarnished sinppiness in Them. A Look at the Better Side of the Greaser.

from the Guif of California to Corpus Christi, on the Texas coast, is found a type of being that is almost an anomaly, even among our own cosmopolitan classes. The horder Mexican, or "greaser," has no nation, yet he is distinctly local. He is the evolution of that aried and sun kissed belt characterized by flora and fauna asacrimonious and as shaggy as himself and best exemplified by the cactus, the coyote and the burro. You cannot accuse nature of making a mistake in his creation, for he is an adaptation that rises superfor to adversity. You will find him pictur esque and, when better known not all bad. This Mexican is far below the nation's representative, yet he is not the degraded peon of serf of the land. He is rather what the peon has become in the two generations he has enjoyed the freedom of our government, if not wiser, at least less servile. He is generally admitted to be the result of a fusion for some centuries of the Spaniard with that mild type of semi-civilized Indian of the Cortex conquests, but is nearer the Spaniard, whose atiful language, further softened into a dialect, he still retains. This may be due to laxiness, but is more probably from the liquid movement of Indian speech peculiar to some of the southern tribes, as shown by the present language of the Pimas and Maricopas of WANT NOT THE UNATTAINABLE.

The Mexicans are the happiest of contented creatures, and, though poverty is their universal heritage, they have no wants. Jean Jacques Rousseau must have been among a peasant class in Italy when he wrote so truthfully that "He only is free who wants nothing beyond what he can get and does harmlessly as he pleases." There are two classes of Mexican pensants, the Labradoes and the Rancheros. The fermer are the A Fine Specimen in Philadelphia Leads to milder, simpler people found sprinkled along the small canyons and valleys on little plots of bottom land adjacent and brigated by simple or community ditches called acequias, which lead from the streams, winding along lower level will permit them finally to wander over the bottom. They bridge no ar-royas, build no dams, arches or cuiverts, and the grounds of Mrs. Lippincott, 1333 Wainut grade required for their canals. In engineering ability they are as far behind the Azthe present Egyptians behind their ancestors

A plot of a few acres supports an entire and calabazas (Mexican beans and pumpleins). of torture, the bocada, or Spanish bit, in the control of their ponies. Many are expert in tossing the rata and some handle a revolver well. A Pueblo scene is very characteristic. In the neighborhood of Savannah, Ga., and the came there was plenty below. But to control of their ponies. Many are expert in plentiful in this locality one of the handsom matter of some moment. The darkness was so intense that nothing could be seen, and it was known that somewhere in that tower a

cool you will find this hop inside a "jacal," Everything has been removed from the house but a row of "sillas" whates and boxes, placed around the sides of the room, which is lighted by a few bods of glowing coals placed at intervals on the freship swept, hard packed earth floor, by a few camiles comented to brackets or projecting adobe bracks by their own wax, and by the star beams that sift through the thatched poor and celling. The coals serve also as a stove and free light for cigarettes. The music will be given from an orchestra composed of a couple of guitars, a violin, an accordion and one or more harps. There are no hop cards, but the habitue can tell you in advance what the programme will -waltzes alternating with the Mexican redown or three step, la galopa, a polka and maybe a western square dance or two.

There is no directoire or empire gowns, on corsage bonquets, none of the traditional Spanish dress save the mantilla. This is folded diagonally; double edged front, placed over the head, the longer end falling forward is carried loosely over the boson as high as the throat and crosses the other, road on the left shoulder, leaving only an oval of face visible from brow to chin. The women retain a Spanish fondness for black and also the Indian love of bright colors. The men are indifferent to dress except so far as to having a broad, light felt sembrers, and a scarf, or sash, of bright colored wool or silk about their waist. To a Mexican girl dancing is instinct. Their accountation is so per-fect, their movements so yielding and full of muscular grace, that to waitz with one on an earth floor, where the friction is something frightful, is not impossible. Let those who decry dancing as a vice of civilization, an unnatural pleasure erected for a sensation, come and learn of these poetic savages the rhythm of motion. For they are poetic; there is a perfume of romance in the songs found in the poorest "jacat;" a sensious softness that our language cannot render. I recall once being at a "balle," where in the interval between the dances I asked one of the young ladies to give us a Mexican song, which she did to an accompaniment on the guitar. It was exquisitely soft, though I could only eartch enough of the Spanish to know that its theme was love. When the piece was finished she wanted us to return the courtesy by a song in English. We hastened to avow with the namal frankness in such cases, that we could not sing, but the girl evidently did not believe us, and would ng no more for us in spite of entreaty .-Philadelphia Times.

Mrs. Brown grabbing bimt-I thought I told you not to blow that dreadful whistle! Little Johnnie-I know you did, ma. But I was only just trying to see whether it would blow if I should want it to.-New York Sun.

Caste and Starvation in India. The collector of Ganjam, the famine stricken district in India, in a recent report, summarized by The London Times, that the caste difficulty has been constantly recurring in regard to the relief kitchens. At Sprada Panes children were found starving, and animal life is no greater than that be there was the parents refusing to take them to the tween mineral and vegetable life. Linuwus, "The in brought there, deserted when they got the opportunity. He thinks the legislature must step in and make it a punishable offense for parents to allow their children to starve when food is to be laid with every regard to caste ful. Threats and persuasions alike failed, and Republic.

It was only by compulsion that the Bouris were brought into the kitchen

The same tactics had to be pursued at every kitchen visited by the collector, and the con-sequence was that in some instances, notably at Surada, the villages were deserted on hearing of his approach. "I cannot but repeat what I have already stated, that the people would have died rather than have voluntarily come to the kitchens. Not until it is made a penal offense for a man to threaten loss of casts for feeding at a government kitchen, or for a parent to allow his children

Along a zone of our southwest border, to starve when within a reasonable distance of such kitchen, will the difficulty be got When some inhuman parent has suffered the extreme penalty of the law for ing him to the kitchen, we shall hear no more of the so termed caste objections on the part great structure is suspended, and they won-of the Bouris, Panos, Dandasis, and so on."— der how these men hold on, or why they do New York Times.

Pocket Lamps for Traveling. While riding in a railroad car trying to read a newspaper by the uncertain light of the lamp which was suspended at a tantalising distance from my eyes, says Taverner in The Boston Post, a friend who sat next to me said: "Taverner, old fellow, don't spoil those critical optics of yours by using that wretched apology for a lamp, but suit yourself with this." He whipped a little tube out of his pocket which he fastened to my button-hole, and before I could see what he was driving at, a bright light illuminated the newspaper which had been blurred by the devious rays from the railroad lamp. "That's electricity," added my friend, with seeming-iy superfluous frankness, and he then went on to show how the apparatus worked. It had a storage battery for the motive power and a reflector to concentrate the light, and the entire weight of the lamp was only one and a half pounds. I found the electric light somewhat glaring at first, the reflection from the newspaper duzzling my eyes, and the shadows cast giving a sort of dark lantern gloom to outlying objects. But this effect soon wore off, and by adjusting the paper to the light it was easy for me to read without experiencing any inconvenience

THE MAGNOLIA TREE.

an Investigation of the Subject.

While this city abounds in rare and curious trees, two specimens of the southern magne-lia, known by botanists as Magnolia grandiflora, thriving outdoors in this section, are the bank in a gradual way till the stream's particularly interesting to those acquainted with the habits of the variety. One of these use only nature's level, water, to give the street, and the other in Laurel Hill cemetery, near the group of "Old Mortality." The latter tree is the larger and handsomer specitees, who once inhabited this valley, as are men of the two, but Mrs. Lippincott's tree is better known, and is, besides, a beautiful example of the species.

These two trees are said to be the only ones family of a dezen, exclusive of dogs-as many growing outdoors as far north as this city, it more. First a crop of melons and cebada being supposed not to be hardy beyond Vir-(melons and harley); later a crop of frejoles ginia, and even gardeners, who are used to the curious vagaries existing in plant life, A little pepper and onious and their commis- have been heard to express surprise that these sary is complete. The Rancheres have more trees should be in such a flourishing condition their tastes and are more hardy, so climatize the kind here have failed. It is that it is among them that is sometimes found—said, however, that in all these efforts the the cable passes under the coping stone anx-that outlaw element that has made "Greaser"—trees—have been brought from the Carolinas—lety as to getting across the tower and to the the synonym for bandle and has stamped the or from Georgia. The change from a semi- other side to complete the journey occupied race as thieving and treacherous. This char-acter is partly the result of a traditional son-each case too much for the plants' constitu-space enough between the top of the cable timent—a spirit of adventurous resistance to tion. The two trees, acreever, that were the and the roof of the opening through which tyranny. On the Mexican side a man who exception to the rule were brought from Virtue cable passed for him to crawl along. But evades their outrageous taxes and customs is ginia, the climate of which is nearer that of the space lessened, and be could go no fura here; one killed in an attempt to do so, a Philadelphia, and gardeners who are actually. The government only is the robber. quainted with the history of these two trees and by feeling about in the inky darkness it was found that there was no space above. The men are fine horsensen, of the firm yet say that there is no reason why efforts to was found that if there was no space above. easy border sent, always using that instrument transplant other trees from Virginia should the cable there was plenty below. But to

Adobe dwellings, thatches roufs, arbors be- near New Orleans, the southern magnolia well hole descended through the masonry to peath which are the stone jars left unglazed commonly grows to a height of from sixty to the bottom of the found for cooling water, and the stone hand mill for eighty feet, and occasionally trees are found and the necessity for caution asserted itself grinding the corn for corn cakes, called "tor- the graceful and spreading summits of which in a most pronounced manner. tillas." The conservatism of this people would are a hundred feet from the ground. It is compare with that of India. The agriculture one of the handsomest trees of the south, and and feet it was found that there was a solid al methods are those described in the Bible. when in bloom its large white flowers form a something a few feet below, and the reporter Hay is cut with a hoo, sometimes a hand knife striking contrast to the dark green foliage, dropped off the cable to find that he was on or a sickle; a bough whose forks embrace the and the delightful fragrance which the flow- a flooring of smaller wire cables, formed of proper angle in their plow, and their oven ers exhals fills the air for a long distance. the numerous guys which steady the bridge, are yoked by lashing a pole to the base of ther Travelers who have seen this royal species of and which help to make the network of wire tree for the first time in blossom declare that ropes under the four big cables. These guys

It is a sight never to be forgotten.
It is said that the first specimen of the mag-A flesta is usually eslebrated by a "baile,"

It is said that the first specimen of the magor dance. If it be fall and the night air be
note grandiflors was introduced into Europe
tower, and when he had dropped to them the
note grandiflors are found through the medium of the in 1733, and was transplanted from the banks senses of smelling and feeling that these of the Mississippi river to Maillardiere, about cables were laid in a bed of fresh paint, five miles from Nantes, where it seems to have There was nothing to do but push on toward been speedly forgotten until twenty-eight years later, when M. Bonami, a physician, and also a botanist of Nantes, took notice of Having passed through the tunnel and arit, and at a meeting of the states of Bretagne, rived safely at the river front of the tower, in September, 1760, in Nantes, he presented a It was found that the cable was several feet large branch of this magnolia in flower to the above. Princess of Rohan-Chabet. Its loveliness, both of foliage and flower, made it so much time before received several small trees, but and a firm grip for the hand to climb up a forty feet high, could not be moved to Ver. big cable above, the reporter mounted it sailles, but this they found to be impractica. much as a small boy would mount a horse,

branches. A few years later it was still further damaged through the burning of an adjacent house. It had not recovered from this. The rewinter nearly killed it. In spite of these dis-asters the tree made another effort, with such verse. The bridge tower rearing up out of sters that a few years ago it was still alive. the mist below, the four big cables hanging bearing nearly 400 flowers annually.

great were the straits to which the Confeder on the Brooklyn heights. ate army were driven for medicines, that

The light was above the fog also, and it

Francis Peyre Percher, surgeon in charge of the city hospitals in Charleston in 1961, was could be heard, although vain attempts were directed by the surgeon general of the Condirected by the surgeon general of the Confederate States to study the medicinal quali. or the rumble of a passing bridge train. The ties of the plants and trees of the southern states, and in a voluminous report which he the slightest effect on the drum of the ear. published be says of the Magnolia grandiflora. There was a magnificent charm about this that from it could be provided a stimulant aromatic tonic, and it halso yielded a volatile oil, resin and a tallized substance similar to camphor.— delphia Ledger.

Are Stores Alize?

Are Stores Alize?

Are Stores Alize?

A few weeks ago The Saturday Republic gave the results of some startling experiments by Mr. Mason Kinne, of California, in which that gentleman laid claim to having discovered sex in mineral atoms. From the follow-ing it will be seen that E. D. Walker, the scientist and writer, anticipated the Pacific slope philosopher by about two years. The extract given below is from an article by Mr. Walker written in 1887:

We generally think of minerals as dead lumps of inactive matter. But they may The reporter's companion was at the center truthfully be said to be alive, creatures of of the bridge, wondering what had happened vital polisitions and separated into individu-to the man he saw disappear up in the fog at als as distinct as the pines in a forest or tigers the New York end of the cable, and he was in a jungle. The dispositions of crystals are overjoyed when he saw him descend through as diverse as those of animals. They throb—the fog at the middle of the bridge. He had with missen currents of energy. They grow begun to fear that something wrong might in size as long as they have opportunity. They can be killed, too, though not as easily the cable to the promenade, having completed as an oak or a dog.

rapidly if it be of soft structure, causing the particles to gradually disintegrate in the re-verse order to its growth, until the poor thing hisra dead, shapeless ruin. It is true the Made by Wilkle Collins in the Margin of crystal's life is unlike that of higher crea. His Copy of Forster's "Life of Dickens." tures. But the difference between vegetable the great Swedish auturalist, defined the told." three great kingdoms by saying: 'Stones grow, plants grow and feel, animals grow "Nonsense; the one defect in that wonder

and feel and move,1 " While Walker mentions sothing of sex in the story. The character of Nancy is the stones, it is plain that his ideas respecting finest thing he ever did. He never afterward prejudices at the government kitchens. As them were identical with the wonderful mwall sides of a woman's character-saw all the kitchens, and this is not always successin his microscopical researches.—St. Louis create Nancy created the second Mrs. Dom-

ON THE BRIDGE CABLE.

PERILOUS JOURNEY MADE BY A NEWSPAPER REPORTER.

A Foggy Night Selected for the Trip-He Walks from the New York Anchorage to the Center of the Big Structure on a 16-Inch Cable-Above the River 278 Feet.

Hundreds of people while crossing the Brooklyn bridge have looked at the riggers and painters who, in the performance of killing his child by starvation, in lieu of tak- duty, climb up into the network of wires or walk along the big cables from which the not get dizzy and fall.

Desiring to know something of these men who spend their time away up among those slender wires, a Star reporter endeavored to get some of them to tell their experience, but t was found that they had become so accustomed to whatever sensations they might experience that they had grown unconscious of anything remarkable in the fact that they walked on a slender thread between the river and the sky, except that they earned good livings for their families, and were very well ed with their vocations. Still determined to learn how it feels to walk in midair on so slender a footpath as a 16-inch cylinder, the reporter concluded to walk on one of the cables from the New York anchorage to the top of the tower, and on down the aerial pathway to the center of the bridge. It was of his genius useless to seek permission to make the trip, so it was decided that it should be made under cover of the darkness of night.

But an opportunity came eventually, and the trip was made and experiences noted. On the night of Friday a heavy fog hung over the river, and the bridge was lost in the thickness of the atmosphere. Even the powerful glow of the electric lights could not penetrate the mist for any considerable distance. The four big cables of the bridge rising from the anchorage and ascending above the promenade were lost in the fog a few feet beyond, and it was only necessary to avoid being seen at the start to escape detection. It was decided to make the trip on this dark night.

And so, dressed in ordinary clothes and street shoes, with an overcoat buttoned tightly about his throat, the reporter walked out from Park row along the promenade to the anchorage. A policeman loomed up in the fog just where the cable rises, passel along, and in a minute was lost sight of. Now was the chance, and, tossing his umbrella to a companion, the searcher after new experies vaulted the railing and stood erect on the 16-inch cable. On either side was a buifinch guy rope for a bandrail. Grasping each rope, he began to walk coward and upward into the darkness and mist. A few steps forward, and he was apparently out of the world and alone, his whereabouts known only to one human being. For a time the lights below were visible, but soon these dis appeared from view, and the illumination

pass through the opening at the top of the

A SAFE DESCENT. At a height of 278 feet above the surface talked of that Louis XV, who had a short of the river one would want a sure footing which were not thriving, sent two gardeners stone wall. But these were not to be had, so to see whether the tree, which was then about raising himself on tiptoes and embracing the and with as much chance of getting on its During the civil war of La Vendee the tree back as the boy would have of getting on the was badly mutilated, and it lost many of its back of a horse. But the cable was mounted successfully, and the greatest danger was

The reporter then noticed for the first time when, according to its historian, a severe that he was above the fog and as absolutely winter nearly killed it. In spite of these dis- alone as he could be anywhere in the uni-4th a height of between 30 and 40 feet, and down and disappearing in the fog and the a trunk four feet in circumference, and cold, black darkness of the clear atmosphere above were all there were to behold save one During the civil war in this country so bright light on the flag pole on top of a hotel

place the foot solidly on the cable when the foot in advance had to be placed lower than the other foot. Caution had been aroused and fear suggested the thought: "What would people think to see a man fall through the fog and be crushed to death on the bridge? Then came a little feeling of timidity, but as each step was decreasing the danger and shorten ing the distance to the promenade there was no chance for real fright. Soon the electric lights were seen again, and then the outline

of the roadbed of the bridge. have happened when his friend jumped one of the most novel and interesting walks "A strong electric current discharged of a quarter of a mile that man has ever ex-through a crystal will decompose it very perienced.—New York Star.

NOTES TO A LIFE.

Forster considered that in "Oliver Twist" "The interest of a story simply but well

that I know of in literature." Forster congratulates himself on having persuaded Dickens to alter the plot of "Bar-

Copperfield'-incompara-

ates how Dickens had told

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YO. MAN

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a fine idea. New, powerful, highly dramatie, and well within he limits of truth to nature, .tly strengthened the weak in 1849, to Forster: rith its small sale, sent me

Wilkie Collies comments; "That 'Chuzzlewit' (in some respects the finest novel he ever wrote) delighted his readers, and so led to a large sale of his next book, Dombey,' I do not doubt. But the latter half of 'Dombey' no intelligent person can have read without astonishment, and the disappointment that followed lowered the sale

CLIMBING UP.

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- Mrs. L. L. Brown, Denmark, Miss.

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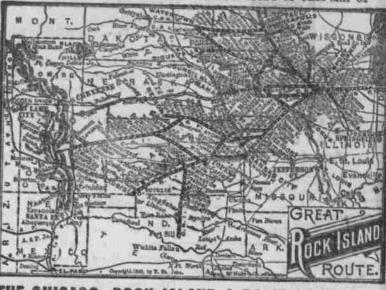
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